

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application:

Listing of Claims:

sub 31 1. (currently amended) An absorbent article as recited in claim 28, wherein configured for disposition within the vestibule of a female wearer, the vestibule having a floor, the absorbent article comprising an absorbent, the absorbent having an upper surface, the upper surface having located thereon

the slit further provides a placement enhancement means, the placement enhancement means minimizing which minimizes the surface area of that portion of the absorbent article that comes into contact with the floor of the vestibule.

a 2. (canceled)

3. (currently amended) The absorbent article of claim 2 1, wherein the slit is a single continuous slit.

4. (currently amended) The absorbent article of claim 3, wherein the slit extends at least about 80 percent of the length of the absorbent; ~~and wherein the slit extends through at least about 50 percent of the thickness of the absorbent.~~

5. (currently amended) The absorbent article of claim 3, wherein the slit extends at least about 80 percent of the width of the absorbent; ~~and wherein the slit extends through at least about 50 percent of the thickness of the absorbent.~~

6. (original) The absorbent article of claim 2, wherein the slit is a series of slits.

7. (currently amended) The absorbent article of claim 6, wherein the slits extend at least about 80 percent of the length of the absorbent; ~~and wherein each slit extends through at least about 50 percent of the thickness of the absorbent.~~

8. (currently amended) The absorbent article of claim 6, wherein the slits extend at least about 80 percent of the width of the absorbent; ~~and wherein each slit extends through at least about 50 percent of the thickness of the absorbent.~~

9. (original) The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein the absorbent further comprises a superabsorbent polymer.

Claims 10 through 20 (canceled).

21. (currently amended) The absorbent article of claim ~~20~~ 28, wherein the slit is a single continuous slit.

a 22. (currently amended) The absorbent article of claim 21, wherein the slit extends at least about 90 percent of the length of the absorbent; ~~and wherein the slit extends through at least about 50 percent of the thickness of the absorbent.~~

23. (currently amended) The absorbent article of claim 21, wherein the slit extends at least about 90 percent of the width of the absorbent; ~~and wherein the slit extends through at least about 50 percent of the thickness of the absorbent.~~

24. (currently amended) The absorbent article of claim ~~20~~ 28, wherein the slit is a series of slits.

25. (currently amended) The absorbent article of claim 24, wherein the slits extend at least about 90 percent of the length of the absorbent; ~~and wherein each slit extends through at least about 50 percent of the thickness of the absorbent.~~

26. (currently amended) The absorbent article of claim 24, wherein the slits extend at least about 90 percent of the width of the absorbent; ~~and wherein each slit extends through at least about 50 percent of the thickness of the absorbent.~~

27. (currently amended) The absorbent article of claim ~~19~~ 28, wherein the absorbent further comprises a superabsorbent polymer.

a 1

28. (new) An absorbent article configured to provide a labial pad for disposition within the vestibule of a female wearer, the vestibule having a floor, the absorbent article comprising an absorbent, the absorbent having an upper surface, the upper surface having located thereon a slit which provides at least one fluid intake enhancement means; wherein the absorbent has a maximum width of no greater than about 70 mm, a maximum length of no greater than about 100 mm and a maximum thickness of no greater than about 10 mm; the slit extends through at least about 50 percent of the thickness of the absorbent; and the slit is configured to provide an increased surface area of the absorbent to allow bodily fluids to be more rapidly absorbed into the absorbent when the article is folded along an axis lying on or parallel to a principal longitudinal axis (L) prior to disposition within the vestibule of the wearer.
